

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 5                    A composition for topical use comprising  
greater than 25% L-ascorbic acid, by weight, and  
a non-aqueous carrier,  
wherein said composition has a pH greater than that of skin.
2.                  The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises greater  
that 25% micronized L-ascorbic acid by weight.
3.                  The composition of Claim 2, wherein said L-ascorbic acid has a mean  
particle size of no greater than approximately 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .
- 10                 4.                  The composition of Claim 2, wherein said L-ascorbic acid has a mean  
particle size of no greater than approximately 2  $\mu\text{m}$ .
5.                  The composition of Claim 2, wherein said L-ascorbic acid has a mean  
particle size between approximately 0.01  $\mu\text{m}$  and 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .
- 15                 ~~6.                  The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises greater  
that 30% ascorbic acid.~~
7.                  The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises, by  
weight, more L-ascorbic acid than D-ascorbic acid.
8.                  The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises, by  
weight, more L-ascorbic acid than ascorbic acid derivatives.
- 20                 9.                  The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition is essentially free  
of D-ascorbic acid, and is essentially free of ascorbic acid derivatives.
10.                 The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition has a pH of at  
least about 5.5.
11.                 The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition has a pH of at  
25                 least about 6.0.
12.                 The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition has a pH of at  
least about 7.0.
13.                 The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises  
an enzymatic exfoliant.
- 30                 14.                 The composition of Claim 1, wherein said enzymatic exfoliant comprises  
papain.

15. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said non-aqueous carrier comprises glycerin.

16. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said L-ascorbic acid is micronized in oil.

5 17. The composition of Claim 16, wherein said oil may be derived from plant materials.

18. The composition of Claim 16, wherein said oil comprises capric/caprylic triglycerides.

10 19. The composition of Claim 2, wherein said L-ascorbic acid is prepared by a wet micronization process.

20. A method for preparing a topical L-ascorbic acid composition, comprising micronizing ascorbic acid powder in an oil.

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein said oil may be derived from plant materials.

15 22. The method of Claim 20, wherein said oil comprises capric/caprylic triglycerides.

23. A method of providing one or more of the following treatments to a mammal in need of such treatment: UV protection, removal and prevention of wrinkles, or stimulating collagen production in a mammal, comprising,

20 identifying a mammal in need of such treatment, and topically applying the composition of Claim 1 to said mammal.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein said mammal is a human.